

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PM-07 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

INT-08 RSR-01 /185 W

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R 131840Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5528

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC REACTION TO US FERROUS SCRAP CONTROLS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3705

1. ON JULY 13 THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT THE FERROUS SCRAP SITUATION SUBSEQUENT
TO THE RECENT U.S. IMPOSITION OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

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(THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE COMMISSION'S INITIAL REACTION

REPORTED IN THE REFTEL.) THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WILL SUGGEST THAT THE MEMBER STATES DELIVER A "NOTE VERBALE" TO THE U.S. ABOUT RESTRICTIONS WHICH AFFECT AVERAGE COMMUNITY IMPORTS OF 1.5 MILLION TONS (SIC).

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRIES, AN EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCE PERSONALLY REGRETTED THE FACT THAT HE HAD MADE PUBLIC IN THIS MANNER A MATTER WHICH IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE COMMUNITY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FIGURE USED BY THE SPOKESMAN WAS TOO LARGE ALTHOUGH, ON THE AVERAGE SINCE 1969, COMMUNITY IMPORTS OF U.S. SCRAP HAVE BEEN "SUBSTANTIAL" EVEN IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES OTHER THAN ITALY.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED THE MATTER AT ITS MEETING THIS WEEK ON THE INITIATIVE OF SPINELLI, WHO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AREA IN QUESTION. SPINELLI AND HIS STAFF WERE REACTING TO PRESSURE FROM THE MEMBER STATES (WE ASSUME ITALY PRIMARILY BUT OTHERS MAY BE INVOLVED AS WELL). THE COMMISSION HAS NOW REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE COAL AND STEEL GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WHICH IS TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECT ON JULY 16.

4. ON A PERSONAL BASIS WE TOLD OUR SOURCE WE THOUGHT WASHINGTON WOULD UNDERSTAND AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE GENERAL SCRAP SUPPLY SITUATION AND A DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH US. WE SAW NO BASIS FOR ANY "PROTEST," HOWEVER, SINCE THE COMMUNITY HAS LONG BEEN CONTROLLING ITS OWN SCRAP EXPORTS BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER.
GREENWALD

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